

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION  
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015  
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,  
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

**MEETINGS MINUTES**

Members Present: **Maggie Zheng, David Nicholson, Glenn Ward, Jacob Contreras, Diego Martinez Barrera, David Ojeda, Ev Essif, Moeed Irfan, Sameed Irfan, Stephanie Tineo, Amisadai Licea.**

Non-Members Present: **Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Andres Cano, Paul Lovelis, Ed Nossem, Kimberly Ward, Irfan Sheikh, Linda Leatherman**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER – MAGGIE ZHENG**

Meeting called to order at 6:10 P.M.

**2.0 ROLL CALL – MAGGIE ZHENG**

Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.

**3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MAGGIE ZHENG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

**4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – MAGGIE ZHENG**

Approval of February 25th & March 18th, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Diego Martinez Barrera

Second: David Nicholson

Motion carried 11 - 0.

**5.0 DISTRICT 2 PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR RICHARD ELIAS**

Supervisor Richard Elias thanked the group for having him attend the meeting, and said that he has been an MEC Commissioner for the last 7 years. He is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation native Tucsonan, and a 7<sup>th</sup> generation Arizonan. He is a Salpointe High School graduate, and was elected to the Pima County Board of Supervisors upon Raul Grijalva's election to the U.S. Congress and has served 4 terms. District 5 is the most urban of all of the Pima County districts, covering part of midtown Tucson, the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, and also Tucson Mountain Park.

Mr. Elias had two messages for the group: One big lie is that America is past its prime and won't be successful – although the current challenges are unprecedented, past generations also faced great challenges and surmounted them, and referenced the turmoil of the 1960's as an example. It is the challenge of the youth of today to address today's issues and solve them. Second, the lie that the Arizona legislature is "only interested in education". It is up to us to fix the current situation in education, not just for K-12 but also for the universities and community colleges. He mentioned a teacher friend who decided to leave Arizona and move to Georgia, which has 28 state universities compared to Arizona's 3 universities.

Mr. Elias had the students perform a role-playing exercise as members of the state legislators, dividing the group into "Democrats" and "Republicans", and asked them to pass a \$200 million base budget. The students went through all of the procedural motions and debates that the Legislature does, and it was a very instructive exercise that also demonstrated the students' considerable grasp of both the process and the political landscape.

6.0 MEC STUDENT ADVOCACY DAY – MAGGIE ZHENG

The students discussed the outcomes of the Student Advocacy Day and their impressions of the day's events. The 3 committees' meetings with legislators were discussed, and it was suggested that the legislators ought to visit some schools and spend some time in classrooms to see the situation firsthand, and what the budget cuts to public education's effects are.

7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAGGIE ZHENG

7.1 Elected Officials Visits Update

7.2 LULAC Educators Banquet Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> YAC/TTC Attendees

7.3 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – YAC/TTC Attendees May 8th

Upcoming meeting dates with elected officials are as follows:

**Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild – Wednesday, April 15**

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – MAGGIE ZHENG

Motion to approve: Maggie Zheng

Second: Diego Martinez Barrera

Motion carried 11 -0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.